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## Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

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Main Entry: **ap·pa·ra·tus**  

Pronunciation: "a-p&- 'ra-t&s, - 'rA-

Function: *noun*

Inflected Form(s): *plural -tus·es or -tus*

Etymology: Latin, from *apparare* to prepare, from *ad-* + *parare* to prepare -- more at [PARE](#)

**1 a** : a set of materials or equipment designed for a particular use **b** : a group of anatomical or cytological parts functioning together <mitotic *apparatus*> **c** : an instrument or appliance designed for a specific operation

**2** : the functional processes by means of which a systematized activity is carried out: as **a** : the machinery of government **b** : the organization of a political party or an underground movement

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